PURCHASING OF DRILLING RIGS BY MECL

*323. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Indian Express of 10th December, 1993 under the caption "multi-crore purchase scam in MECL";

(b) if so, what are the details relating to the purchase of drilling rigs worth over Rs. 3.27 crores by the Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.;

(c) whether it is a fact that certain officials of the Corporation have been accused for abusing their official position as members of the Purchase Advisory Committee to cause wrongful loss to MECL and if so, what are the details in this regard;

(d) what are the names of these officials; and

(e) what are the details of enquiry, if any, held against the officials of the MECL in this deal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Orders for purchase of 29 drill machines and certain tools and accessories amounting to Rs. 3.36 crores were placed by MECL during January-February, 1990.

(c) to (e) On a complaint alleging that certain officials of MECL have misused their official position in the matter of placement of purchase orders, the matter was referred by the Government to CBI for enquiry. The CBI on the basis of preliminary enquiry filed an FIR against the following seven officials of the company :—

1. Shri R. M. Sharma, General Manager (Materials), MECL.
2. Shri D. S. Reddy, Ex-General Manager (Drilling), MECL.
3. Shri N. K. Chatterjee, General Secretary, MECEU (GSI employee).
4. Shri M. P. Datar, Ex-Chief Manager (F&A), MECL.
5. Shri B. P. Sinha, Chief Drilling Engineer, MECL.
6. Shri R. S. Kulkarni, Manager (F&A), MECL; and
7. Shri M. S. Nagar, Ex-Director (Tech.), MECL presently CMD, Indian Rare Earths Ltd., Bombay.

RECOVERY TO BE MADE BY BALCO FROM PURCHASERS OF ITS PRODUCTS

*324. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total amount to be recovered by the BALCO from the purchasers of its products ;

(b) whether it is a fact that some purchasers submitted fake bank guarantees to the BALCO, Korba and obtained materials ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the BALCO, Korba is planning to hand-over the Gandhamardhan Bauxite Project to the Private Sector after spending Rupees 42 crores on it ; and

(d) Whether it is also a fact that the bauxite deposits at Amarkantak and Phutka Pahar got exhausted and BALCO is not exploiting to develop the Mainpat area where the deposits of Bauxite is in sufficient quantity and the 900 workers who are sitting without work due to closure of above two mines can be deployed there ?